

California GARDEN

Fortieth Year

SPRING, 1950

Volume 41, No. 1

CONTENTS

LET'S GROW NATIVES

Jane A. Minshall

DE-GLAMORIZING THE ORCHID

Eugene A. Casey

CLEMATIS, THE BEAUTIFUL

Katherine Hunter

LEAVES FROM AN OBSERVER'S NOTEBOOK

Marion Almy Lippitt

A UNIQUE NATIVE PLANT RESERVE

Guy L. Fleming

FUN WITH DAHLIAS

Hazel Sloan Harper

GLADIOLUS, THEN AND NOW

Marie Clark Hamilton

FREMONTIAS

Alfred C. Hottes

AN IRIS LETTER

Alice J. White

PELARGONIUM PARADE

Alice M. Clark

PREPARE FOR BEGONIAS

NEW BOOKS — YOUR GARDEN



FREMONTIA MEXICANA — ALFRED HOTTES — See article page 13

Published by

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

Price 25 cents

GLADIOLUS, *for the discriminating hobbist*

SPECIAL:

- 50 large bulbs, our selection, all labeled, 5 each of 10 varieties - - - - - \$5.00
OR
50 medium bulbs, same as above - - - - - \$3.50

This will include some of the newer varieties and the best of the older favorites.

You may be assured of more than catalog value. State color preferred.

CALL WRITE PHONE H. 2-2736

HAMILTON'S GLAD VISTA

478 MOSS ST., CHULA VISTA, CALIFORNIA

"Enjoy A Glimpse of the Tropics"

WILLIAMS & MACPHERSON

SUBTROPICAL NURSERY

only one of its kind in the county

DISTINCTIVE LANDSCAPING

ENCINITAS

Highway 101

Ph. En. 2244

Let us show you

GARDEN BOOKS

. . . that instruct and entertain.

Ask for the newest literature on:

Iris, Roses and floral arrangements.

Main floor at . . .

**STATIONERS
CORPORATION**

1055 Sixth Avenue

Franklin 1344

DUNNINGS, Inc.

. . . handy . . . downtown

Headquarters for

Seeds & other Garden Needs

909 Sixth Avenue

Franklin 5387

BE

GAY AND COMFORTABLE!

Choose from a large selection of:

GARDEN FURNITURE

AT

DRYER'S FURNITURE CO.

EASY FREE PARKING

2400 KETTNER BLVD.

F. 6421



Is Your Garden
Ready for Visitors?

Sixty-two years ago, Mr. Ernst Benard came from Southern France to found the Mission Valley Nursery. Now it is San Diego's largest and finest nursery.

Benard's MISSION VALLEY NURSERY

MISSION VALLEY ROAD

Telephone Jackson 2648

(From Cabrillo Freeway take turn marked to 101;
from 101 take turn marked to Mission Valley)

California Garden

Published quarterly by the
SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION
Under the sponsorship of the Park and
Recreation Department, City of San Diego.

Address all communications to
SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION
Administration Building, Balboa Park
San Diego 1, California

OFFICERS

President.....Mrs. Clinton Abbott
First Vice-President.....Mr. Guy Fleming
Second Vice-President.....Miss Alice Greer
Secretary.....Mr. Paul Crandall
Treasurer.....Mr. W. Allen Perry
Recording Secretary.....Mrs. Rawson Pickard

DIRECTORS

Mr. Roland Hoyt, Mr. Dean Palmer,
Mr. Arthur M. Shoven, Mrs. John G.
Clark, Mrs. Frank Marcy, Mrs. Lester
Wright

Directors From the Following

AFFILIATED SOCIETIES

Coronado Floral Association, A. D.
Robinson Branch of A.B.S., Eva Ken-
worthy Gray Branch of A.B.S., Organic
Gardening Club, San Diego Branch of
A.B.S., San Diego Branch of Southern
California Nurserymen's Association, San
Diego Camellia Society, San Diego County
Orchid Society.

CALIFORNIA GARDEN MAGAZINE

Editor.....Alice M. Clark
Associate Editor.....Alice M. Greer

EDITORIAL STAFF

Alfred C. Hottes, Roland S. Hoyt, Guy
L. Fleming, Emily Clayton, Ada McLouth,
Ethel H. Calloway, Jane Minshall, Ethel
Bailey Higgins, Edith A. Purer, Ruth
Robinson Bailey, Marion F. Wooters, Ruth
E. Munson, Zelda Vernier, Ida K. Brooks,
Annie C. Robinson.

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION

BALBOA PARK, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
MEMBERSHIP, including magazine

Annual	\$2.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sustaining (or family)	5.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Affiliate Society	10.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Life	100.00	<input type="checkbox"/>

SUBSCRIPTION

California Garden (4 issues) \$1.00 ☐

Name.....

Address.....

zone

Date.....

Memberships and gifts are deductible for income tax.

Calendar of Events

Unless otherwise stated, meetings will
be held in the Floral Association Building,
Balboa Park, San Diego, California.

MARCH

OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, March 5, - 1 to 5 p.m.

Flowering Shrubs and Trees.

Exhibit arranged by the San Diego
Branch of the Southern California
Nurserymen's Association.

SAN DIEGO ORCHID SOCIETY
MEETING

Tuesday, March 7 - 8 p.m.

SAN DIEGO NURSERYMEN'S
MEETING

Thursday, March 16 - 8 p.m.

ORGANIC GARDENING CLUB
MEETING

Friday, March 17, - 7:30 p.m.

FLORAL ASSOCIATION MEETING
Tuesday, March 21 - 8 p.m.

Illustrated Lecture:

"Torrey Pines, California's Birthday
Trees." by Guy L. Fleming.

The CENTENNIAL ORCHID FESTIVAL

Saturday, March 25 - 1 to 9 p.m.

Sunday, March 26 - 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Conference Hall, Balboa Park.

A. D. ROBINSON BEGONIA MEETING
Tuesday, March 28 - 8 p.m.

APRIL

SAN DIEGO ORCHID SOCIETY
MEETING

Tuesday, April 4 - 8 p.m.

OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, April 9 - 1 to 5 p.m.

Easter Flowers, Cultivated and Wild.
Exhibit arranged by Floral Soci-
eties and the San Diego Society of
Natural History.

APRIL

CORONADO FLOWER SHOW

Saturday, April 15 - 2 to 10 p.m.

Sunday, April 16 - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

East Plaza, Coronado Park

FLORAL ASSOCIATION MEETING

Tuesday, April 18 - 8 p.m.

Lecture: "Balboa Park, Its History and
Landscaping," by Harold Curtis.

SAN DIEGO NURSERYMEN'S
MEETING

Thursday, April 20 - 8 p.m.

ORGANIC GARDENING CLUB
MEETING

Friday, April 21 - 7:30 p.m.

SPECIAL EXCURSION TO TORREY
PINES

Sunday, April 23

Under the joint auspices of the S.D.F.A.
and the S.D.S.N.H.

A. D. ROBINSON BEGONIA MEETING
Tuesday, April 25 - 8 p.m.

MAY

OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, May 7 - 1 to 5 p.m.

Pelargoniums and Geraniums.

Display by amateurs and profes-
sionals.

SAN DIEGO ORCHID SOCIETY
MEETING

Tuesday, May 9 - 8 p.m.

FLORAL ASSOCIATION MEETING

Tuesday, May 16 - 8 p.m.

Lecture: "Fifty Years of Gardening in
Southern California," by Hugh Evans.

SAN DIEGO NURSERYMEN'S
MEETING

Thursday, May 18 - 8 p.m.

ORGANIC GARDENING CLUB
MEETING

Friday, May 19 - 7:30 p.m.

A. D. ROBINSON BEGONIA MEETING
Tuesday, May 23 - 8 p.m.

*Subscribers will please notify Postmaster, and
California Garden of any change of address.*

Entered as second-class matter December
8, 1910, at the Post Office at San Diego,
California, under the Act of March 3,
1879, The California Garden is on the
list of publications authorized by the
San Diego Retail Merchants Association.
Subscriptions to the California Garden,
\$1.00 per year; Foreign Countries and
Canada, \$1.25.

Advertising rates furnished on request.

California Garden

Forty-first Year

Spring, 1950

Volume 41, No. 1

It is encouraging to realize that the San Diego Board of Education has placed the landscaping of our city schools in the hands of a local girl, Jane Minshall, who majored in landscape design at the University of California. In this article she gives a glimpse of what is being done to beautify our school grounds with native shrubs, so that we may see how choice and practical they are for our gardens.

Let's Grow Natives

JANE A. MINSHALL

Because of the strange notion that something that is imported is superior and more desirable than a home grown product, many of our beautiful California shrubs enter our gardens all too rarely. California natives have been growing in English gardens for many years, where they are appreciated, and where their real beauty is recognized.

Gardeners who are looking for something different, drought resistant and pest free, should consider some of the plants that grow in our hills and canyons. Bear in mind the cultural needs of these natives, some of which mingle happily with the exotics—those that will take water the year around—and those that are better off when kept apart and treated differently. There are native shrubs for all the purposes in a garden, such as hedges, ground covers, background, and accent shrubs.

Those of you who like rosemary, lemon verbena, and other shrubs, with fragrant foliage, should not miss *Salvia clevelandi* (Fragrant or Cleveland Sage). This little sage, limited to San Diego County and Lower California, is especially noticeable on the grade west of Alpine. I wonder how many motorists have inhaled that lovely fragrance without the slightest idea of its source. We have recently put in a

few dozen plants of Cleveland Sage on the west side of the boy's gymnasium at Point Loma High School, where those who pass by may enjoy it for years to come. *S. clevelandi* is a low grower. The green-gray leaves and very rich blue flowers are good for cutting. This native prefers light soil, full sun and a little summer watering.

Thirty-five species of *Ceanothus*, commonly called Wild-Lilac, grow in California. Many of these are worthy of garden use. They range in size and shape from the tree-like *ceanothus* to the flat ground covers.

Ceanothus arboreus (Tree or Feltleaf C.), from the Santa Barbara Channel Islands, makes a small tree and is good for back-grounds and along driveways. In early spring it has large masses of pale blue flowers.

Ceanothus cyaneus (San Diego C.), besides being one of the most beautiful of all of its species, should be of special interest to us. It was discovered over twenty-five years ago on a hillside above Lakeside and shown to Kate Sessions. Quickly sensing its value, she propagated it and introduced it to the trade so that now, although it grows wild only in a few isolated spots in this county, it is one of the most easily obtainable of the *ceanothus*. The shrub grows 6 to 10 feet high and

has large flower clusters of a deep, clear, cornflower blue in May and June. Beautiful stands of it may be seen from the road up Wildcat Canyon between Lakeside and the Barona Indian Reservation.

C. verrucosus (Wartystem C.) grows 3 to 8 feet high. It is one of the best of the white-flowered varieties. It is common on Point Loma mesas and in canyons throughout San Diego. The shrub is covered with snowy bloom in February and March.

A very fine, tall-growing variety for the wild garden is *C. crassifolius* (Hoaryleaf C.). The foliage is thick and toothed, somewhat like holly, dark gray-green above and matted with gray felt beneath. The flowering period is January through March, although sometimes the hills between Lakeside and Ramona are white with bloom by Christmas time. This year, possibly due to our cold winter, the buds were not even beginning to swell by mid-January.

C. purpureus (Hollyleaf C.), which grows about 4 feet high, has a spreading habit. The prickly leaves are a very handsome dark green, the flowers, purple-blue. This species, from Napa County, is one of the most attractive of our California natives.

A number of low prostrate forms of *ceanothus* are valuable for banks and the tops of retaining

walls. We have recently put in a mass planting of *C. griseus horizontalis* (Carmel Creeper) at Point Loma High School. A year from this spring the slope where it is planted should be covered with a mantle of blue. It grows 18 inches high and has a spread of 5 to 10 feet. We have given it a background of *C. cyaneus*, rich-green *Prunus ilicifolia*, and *Fremontia mexicana*, with its big satiny, golden flowers in spring and summer. The blue of wild lilacs, combined with the gold of fremontias, is a wonderful sight to behold.

Prunus ilicifolia (Hollyleaf Cherry), one of the best-known wild shrubs, is grown for individual specimens and for hedges—and a handsome hedge it makes. From March to May, its dark green holly-like foliage is nearly hidden by the many clusters of cream-colored flowers. In September, the edible, oblong cherries are as decorative as the bloom. The foliage is fine for Christmas wreaths.

Ribes speciosum (Fuchsia-Flowered Gooseberry) is also good for Christmas decorations because its graceful habit of growth and lively green foliage are adapted to arrangements. The glossy, narrow, bell-like, red flowers resemble those of a fuchsia, hence its common name. In its native habitat, *R. speciosum* is deciduous for a short period, but holds its leaves under cultivation. It prefers sun or part-shade.

Cneoridium dumosum (Berry-rue), a very nice little shrub belonging to the same family as the citrus fruits, is hard to obtain in nurseries. There is much of it in the hills near Lakeside, growing against granite boulders and sprawling over them. The one-inch, linear, gray-blue-green leaves are very aromatic, as are the small white star-like flowers that come in winter. The blooms are followed by very round, conspicuous berries that are reddish for a time and then brown. This

shrub will do well in light shade or full sun.

Common in our county are a number of sumacs. *Rhus ovata* (Sugarbush) grows wild in the foothills back from the coast. It does better away from the sea air, in a warm place with sun or some shade. When planted where it will get filtered light from a high tree, the growth becomes a little more open, and the leaves darker and glossier. Its handsome foliage, the year around, together with its clusters of pink flower buds in late winter, make it exceptionally beautiful as a background shrub, or as an unclipped hedge.

Not as desirable as Sugarbush, but better for coast planting and very dependable, is *Rhus integrifolia* (Lemonade-Berry). It is fine for mass plantings and for covering large slopes. Its common name comes from the fact that its sticky-red berries can be used for making an acid drink.

The manzanitas are so very decorative, such perfect accent shrubs, that it is unfortunate that they are nigh on to impossible to find in nurseries. With their smooth mahogany trunks, and heather-like bells in spring, they are among our most beautiful native shrubs found from one end of the state to the other. Their botanical name, *Arctostaphylos*, means "bear grape". Birds and chipmunks, as well as bears, like the berries. There are very tall species of manzanitas, and also very flat-growing types. As a cover for a large dry slope, try to find *Arctostaphylos uva-urai* (Bearberry), a creeping form from Point Reyes.

Autumn is the best time to plant natives, because the winter rains help to establish them. Their most important cultural requirement is *good drainage*. Be very careful with manure. Most of our California shrubs will live longer without it.

A number of natives, such as species of ceanothus, sumac, toyon and

Prepare for Begonias

It is to be hoped that you have a six month's compost of two parts leamold, one of mountain loam, and one of manure (fresh, when put in), waiting for your begonias.

When the little sprouts first show, nest the tubers, well apart, in flats of moist peat, mixed with some sand or Sponge Rok. Place in a warm place in filtered shade, with plenty of overhead light for upright growth. Keep moist, not wet.

Pot or plant when the shoots are 3 inches long. Opinions differ as to the number of shoots to leave on a plant. One, on a large bulb, will make a tall plant, with large blooms. Two or more stems give a prettier plant, with more, but smaller flowers.

Use an 8-inch pot for a 2-inch tuber. Cover the hole with a hollow piece of broken pot and 2 inches of coarse material for drainage. Put in enough soil to bring the top of the tuber an inch below the top of the pot. With the leaves pointing towards you, place a 2-foot stake at the back of the tuber. Fill in as high as the tuber, firming well around the edges. Water well with mild liquid fertilizer and set in the shade for a week.

Exposure to morning sun from the beginning will make fine blooms. Water thoroughly, when almost dry. Feed twice a month.

If you do not have tubers, buy fine new seedlings at your nursery.

fremontia, are available now and are quite widely planted. There are others just as deserving but hard to find in the nurseries because they are seldom requested. However, within the past years, there has been an increasing interest in the use of native plant material, and it is hoped that the demand will become great enough to encourage the raising of a larger variety for sale.

We may not pin an orchid on Mr. Casey, past-president of the San Diego Orchid Society, for removing the pedestal from under his favorite flower, but he will be satisfied if he persuades more of us to "wear our own".

Select your favorites, and glean expert advice at the "Centennial Orchid Festival" in Balboa Park, March 25 and 26.

De-glamorizing the Orchid

EUGENE A. CASEY

Orchids—those exotic and often strange shaped flowers you see in the florist's windows, with the ten dollar price tags on them, are not exotic nor strange nor even expensive if one knows and grows them!

First let us uncover a few facts about the orchid itself. It is one of the largest of the plant families, having about 15,000 species and sub-species. Plants belonging to this family are found all over the world from the tropics to the northern and southern sub-polar regions. They vary in size from the microscopic to a huge variety with pseudo bulbs ten feet tall and flowers almost a foot across.

Orchids are divided into two groups, according to their habits of growth. First, the epiphytes, or air growing, most of which have pseudo bulbs, and second, the terrestrial, or earth growing, which for the most part have a root system similar to other plants. A few of the orchid genera have growth habits which are common to both groups, that is, they grow in soil and also have pseudo bulbs. A few others do not grow from a rhizome, but have a single stem or pseudo bulb with aerial roots.

The pseudo bulbs are merely a swollen stem in which the plant stores food and moisture to sustain itself during excessively dry periods, since the roots are usually exposed to the air and, without moisture, cannot maintain the plant. The pseudo bulbs are formed on a creeping rhizome similar to that developed by some of the iris plants. Thus we see that they are

no more exotic than a lot of our well known garden flowers, although the tropical varieties require more special care in this colder and drier climate. If conditions were reversed, we would be providing special care for some of our commonest garden flowers and the orchids would be our weeds.

As to the shapes of their flowers, all of them have the same general parts that make up our garden flowers. Orchids have three sepals and three petals. The third petal is very often tubular, or sac-shaped, and is called the labellum or, more simply, the lip. The lip is highly colored, and encloses the reproductive organs of the flower. With the exception of this lip, they are similar in formation to a great many of the blossoms of the lily family, which very few of us think of as strange or exotic.

When you compare orchids with the flowers of the strelitzia or "Bird of Paradise," some of the larger honeysuckles, the cyclamen, the snapdragon and many other flowers that grow in our yards, their shapes are not strange at all.

Now a few words about that ten dollar price tag. Orchids are slow to grow and flower. For hybrids raised from seed, a wait of from six to ten years before flowering is not uncommon. The cost of caring for the plant and providing space for it in a greenhouse, or for some of the hardy varieties in a lath house, is quite an item to the grower and must be taken into account when he sells the flowers. In addition to the grower's cost and profit the florist

adds his percentage to bring the cost of the flower, made into a corsage and delivered to you—ten dollars, please.

The cost of the florist's part of this cycle seems excessive but when you consider that at least half of the flowers he buys spoil before he can sell them, he must charge two and a half times more than he pays for them to come out on top! Hence we conclude that ten dollars is not too much to pay for an orchid corsage at the local flower shop.

However, and this is important, orchids do not have to be this expensive if we grow them ourselves. For those of us who have a glass house, a lath-house, or simply a sheltered semi-shaded place in our yards, the growing of orchids is simple and inexpensive.

There are genera that can be grown in all of these locations. For the glass house, practically all of the orchid family is available. For the lath-house; cymbidiums, cypripediums, or "Lady Slippers", and most of the cool growing semi-tropical genera from Mexico and Central America do quite well. For the shady spot in the yard we can choose any or all of the orchids that would grow in a lath-house but the cymbidiums and cypripediums will give the best results.

Plants of all of the above mentioned types are offered for sale by many growers at prices that range from two to two hundred dollars, depending on the size of the plants and on the size and quality of the flowers. I might say here that, except for the satisfaction one derives from winning a blue ribbon for a fine flower in a show, the expenditure of more than twenty-five dollars for an orchid plant for personal use or for the sale of cut flowers is not justified.

We will assume that we now have a few blooming plants for which we paid from two to ten dol-

(Continued on next page)

Wait until television finds our vibrant, versatile, Katherine Hunter! Not only can she whistle so that humans as well as birds come down off their perches to greet her, but she has also restored the glory of begonias and fuchsias to Rosecroft, and has had fun doing so.

Now, under the spell of her writing, you will be out in the garden muttering, "I wonder where I can find a space for - -"

Clematis, the Beautiful

KATHERINE HUNTER

Most of you knew Rosecroft in its heyday, and many of you wept when it went into mourning, but few of you knew of the great welcome that the clematis gave us, who were destined to revive it. The very memory of the purple glory of this vine, as it hung against the grey stone wall, repays us for all the aching muscles endured.

Because of the long drouth we held little hope for this moisture loving vine, eight of which we found still clinging to the old wire supports, five feet apart. The dry brittle stems which formed a deli-

cate tracery pattern on the old stone were cut back to two feet, and tied securely. Water was applied to the saturation point. After three such waterings, green shoots appeared from five of the plants. They grew with utter abandonment. It was almost a daily duty to pinch out the terminal bud, that the green frieze might more completely cover the old masonry.

In early May we discovered the first panicle, consisting of five large blossoms of royal purple stars. Each flower had from four to six pseudopetals with a large center of golden

stamens. They were magnificent to behold! Within a few weeks the vines were a mass of purple and lavender and were spilling their riot of color over onto the lath and into the sun. Thus they bloomed all thru the summer and on into the fall. Near this splash of color, *Clematis henryi*, of chaste white, framed an old trellis. The great white flowers hung in festoons and resembled water lilies. The whole scene was extremely photogenic and cameras clicked daily.

Clematis are deciduous vines, but their stems are so filamentous that they are never unsightly. Cover an old fence or tree stump with *C. lawsoniana* and a pink rose, and the effect will be enchanting. We use them as backgrounds for pastel-shaded fuchsias. Because they are not heavy vines, they may be used lavishly on a small lot, which is a factor to be considered.

Their culture is simple. Choose a partially shaded place, and set the collar of the plant two inches below the soil, which should be enriched loam. (This is one shade plant that does not want leaf-mold.) If planted in sun, shade roots and keep damp. Good drainage is necessary, but no cultivation is required. We prune plants of *C. jackmani* in the fall, and then only to shape and confine it.

Not only is the color range of clematis great, (running thru the shades of red, purple, lavender, pink, blue and white) but the foliage and seed pods are decidedly unique. Both flowers and seed pods make unusual arrangements. The blossoms have been found to last twenty-four hours out of water, which makes them ideal for corsages.

Few Californians recognize the clematis, but Easterners stop and reminisce. The poet was right—"A thing of beauty is a joy forever."

De-glamorizing the Orchid

(Continued from page 5)

lars. The flowers on these plants, if sold to a florist, would bring from twenty-five to seventy-five cents for the smaller varieties and from one to two dollars for the larger varieties, depending on the color and season. White cattleyas always command a higher price. Thus we see that by combining one or more of these relatively inexpensive flowers from a five dollar plant, with ten

cents worth of ribbon, the ten dollar corsage is well within our reach.

One can gain a great deal of satisfaction and pleasure in raising these beautiful flowers for one's own use and for occasional gifts to friends. From time to time friends come to see my orchids and marvel at the beauty of the flowers. When I ask one of them if she cares to have a bloom, I always feel complimented by her pleased expression, and the way she exclaims, "Would I!"

SAN DIEGO ORCHID SOCIETY PRESENTS . . .

THE

CENTENNIAL ORCHID FESTIVAL

March 25th, 1 to 9 p.m.

March 26th, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

CONFERENCE HALL — Balboa Park — San Diego

CASH AWARDS

RIBBONS AND TROPHIES

General Chairman, J. D. Mattern

Route 1, Box 749, La Mesa

This time Mrs. Lippitt turns the leaves of her notebook to let us see the pages of Spring.

Leaves from the Observer's Notebook

By MARION ALMY LIPPITT

"'You know,' Old John said, as he leaned on his spade, 'the whole world seems sweet sixteen!'"

From *Peace in the Heart*—Rutledge

Mocking Birds

Spring is in the air. I know. I heard it. I heard my first mocking bird today. A pair are building their nest in the vine on my neighbor's chimney. I heard my mocker's operatic arias a long time before I could see him. He chirps, rolls, trills, sings, and mocks anything. I heard him say "t'isn't—real, t'isn't—real, t'isn't—real!"

"Nothing is real but the right," I laughed back. "Thank you for reminding me."

Just then my bird appeared, so stylish in his flying suit of black and white. With his long, gallant tail, he balanced on the fence post, and sang his full diapason of joy.

My neighbor's small daughter, Betty, flashed up the path to our back door with her hands full of spring violets. She put them down and was off again. Her towhead, light blue shirt, dark blue overalls, and red socks blended like an arrow in flight as she darted by.

The wind is blowing down the street

With violets in her hair!

—F. I. Gubbins.

Thought Processes of a Ladybug

She crawled along the railing of the porch enjoying the sunlight. Every so often she would stick her little black bead of a head over the side of the railing. You could feel her shudder at the height she found herself from the floor, for she hastily drew back and crawled on.

What a tidy little individual she is! Her coat, like shiny plastic,

has a tiny line down the middle of the back where her wings fold together.

After innumerable hairbreadth escapes from falling over the dizzying precipice, I saw her suddenly stand still. I felt her come to a realization. Then, as if she laughed and called over to me, "Phooey to you!", she spread her wings and flew away.

Question: All ladybugs aren't female, are they?

An Englishman Speaks:

"Spring — My Word!

"er — Spring.

You perfectly priceless old thing.

I'm frightfully bucked

at the signs that one sees,

The jolly old sap

in the topping old trees;

The priceless old lilac

and that sort of rot;

It jolly well cheers a chap up,

does it not?

We shall have to get stocks

Of new ties and new socks,

And of course we must alter the

jolly old clocks;

There's a tang in the air,

If you know what I mean,

And the grass, as it were,

Is so frightfully green

We shall soon have

the jolly old bee on the wing,

er — Spring"

—Anon.

Plum Trees

The plum trees with their spike-like branches are at first flecked with white, then rosetted

with it, until suddenly they become a drift of dazzling snow. For a week they are caught thus and held immovable, as if they would remain so forever.

Slowly the change comes, a feathery pale greeness gently wipes away the white, and the tree smiles its way onward toward the fruitage of red plums.

A Japanese says it this way:

Scatter your blossoms,

Cherry trees, I pray,

To keep my Friend

still longer at my side.

Quick!

with your drifting Snow of

petals hide

The Road

by which he thinks to go away.

Now Listen to a Californian:

People say there is no spring in California. Why, its glories are deafening! The countryside is brushed with gold as the acacias bloom. The meadowlark's clear high note rises insistently above even the roar of the motor, and the little Tecolote owls blink from the fence posts. The bluebirds dart through wistful eucalyptus trees, and the hills are green again after the molded tawny brown of summer and fall. The mesas are carpeted with pale magenta shooting stars, wild dark blue hyacinths, and yellow violets. No spring?

"Lord, I pray thee open his eyes, that he may see!" prayed Elisha for the young man, his servant.

—From "I Married a New Englander"

—Lippitt.



Illustration, courtesy of the artist, Margaret E. Fleming.

A Unique Native Plant Reserve

GUY L. FLEMING, *President*
Torrey Pines Association

Sixteen miles from San Diego's Civic Center, at the northernmost limits of the City of San Diego, a wonderful natural monument forms the portal of El Camino Real (The King's Highway), the principal thoroughfare into the city. This was carved by the winds and the waters in an ancient terrace, or mesa, that arose from the sea.

A few thousand years ago a great plant migration took place bringing down onto this coast of California certain nut pines, shrubs and flowering plants. In the centuries which followed changes in the landscape came about which greatly altered the character and forms of the plant inhabitants. The pine trees gradually gave way to the change, making their last stand among the rug-

ged canyons and clinging to the colorful sandstone cliffs of this monument at San Diego's gateway. Dwarfed, gnarled and twisted, they send their roots far down over the cliffs seeking a stronger foothold and nourishment. They stand as a wonderful example of tenacity and of adaptation to environment.

These pines are not mentioned in any Mission records, or in the diaries of Spanish explorers. The first Americans to visit the region called these trees the Soledad (solitary) Pines, because they are found growing on the seaward slopes on both sides of the entrance to Soledad Valley.

They were discovered as a new species of pine trees in the spring of 1850, one hundred years ago, by

Dr. C. C. Parry, official botanist of the Mexican Boundary Survey, and were named by him *Pinus torreyana*, in honor of his former professor of botany, Dr. John Torrey of New York, one of our foremost American botanist.

In March, 1883, Dr. Parry described his discovery of the Torrey Pines at a meeting of the San Diego Society of Natural History and urged San Diego "to secure from threatened extermination this remarkable and unique Pacific Coast production so singularly confined within its boundaries; dedicating this spot of ground forever to the cause of scientific instruction and re-creation."

In 1899, Mr. George Marston, Mr. Daniel Cleveland, Miss Belle An-

gier (Mrs. Walter Burns) and other interested citizens, induced the City Council to pass an ordinance setting aside 369 acres of certain pueblo lands, as a city park, in order to preserve "certain rare and valuable pines of the variety known as *Pinus torreyana*". Although set aside as a public park no provision was made for protecting this unusual plant reserve.

A few years later Miss Ellen B. Scripps purchased lands adjoining the Torrey Pines Park, on the north, which contained some of the finest groves of Torrey Pines, native shrub and flower areas, and the interesting marsh lands of the Torrey Pines Estuary.

In 1916, the S. D. Society of Natural History and the S. D. Floral Association joined forces in awakening public support in the preservation of the Torrey Pines and their picturesque environment. Miss Scripps became the patroness of the movement and, through her active interest and appropriation of funds the Torrey Pines Preserve was founded.

Miss Scripps made provision in her will that the lands she had purchased would be given to the City of San Diego, stating, "By including my holdings therein a beautiful natural park would be rounded out and would constitute an attractive gateway to the city. . . . Permanent preservation of those rare trees and securing in perpetuity the scenic beauty of that region is vital. . . . I have spent considerable time to complete plans to carry out these objects. I may not be spared to see them accomplished, but I have the vision that the time will come when not only the scenic beauty but the educational and re-recreational values of the Torrey Pines tract and Park will be appreciated. . . . I commend the views expressed by Ralph D. Cornell (who was retained by Miss Scripps in 1922 to suggest a long

term plan for the Torrey Pines natural reserve) . . . to all those who may be intrusted with the care and development of the Park and, particularly his statement 'Remember that TORREY PINES' fame was won without man's creative aid, that preservation rather than change should be sought'."

Those of us who were associated with Miss Scripps know that her "vision" was that the Torrey Pines Preserve would become known as an outstanding natural reserve—an "out-of-doors museum", holding in perpetuity a living exhibit of a relic forest and its associated flora and fauna, an exhibit which cannot be excelled or duplicated anywhere in the world.

During the twenty-eight years since Miss Scripps first called in professional council to outline plans for the protection of the Torrey Pines area we have experienced the lean years of the "thirties", the war years of the "forties" and an unpredicted and unprecedented increase in the population of San Diego County. These events have caused the public to forget the purpose for which the Torrey Pines Preserve was dedicated.

In order to reawaken public opinion the Ellen Browning Scripps Foundation retained Mr. Cornell to make an up-to-date study of the natural plant reserve, and to "report on matters of control and policy in the light of present day developments". Mr. Cornell's report, dated July 15, 1949, recommended that a self-perpetuating organization of private citizens be formed: "Its sole purpose would be the preservation and development of Torrey Pines. . . . It could be all powerful for good in shaping policies, educating the public and working in cooperation with those officials of management who also represent the public. . . ."

The key suggestion of Mr. Cor-

nell's latest report is, that the Torrey Pines Lodge be considered a geographical division line of the Park, and that the northern half, including the main groves, colorful canyons and the marsh lands "be dedicated to the preservation of the unique flora and soil sculpture", reserving the southern half, that is the lands south of the Lodge, "for many types of recreation use that would attract those that would seek outdoor activity." Mr. Cornell concluded his report with this statement: "Some such program should insure the perpetuity of Torrey Pines Preserve in the spirit of its conception by Miss Ellen Browning Scripps."

The Scripps Foundation has prepared and published a small brochure entitled TORREY PINES ASSOCIATION and "Dedicated to the Perpetual Protection of the Mainland Habitat of the Rare Torrey Pine." This booklet contains Mr. Cornell's reports in full, a map of the Preserve and other pertinent information. It is available to all persons interested in supporting an organization to protect San Diego's unique plant reserve.

On February 2, 1950, twenty-one citizens of San Diego organized and incorporated THE TORREY PINES ASSOCIATION. Send applications to TORREY PINES ASSOCIATION, 7743 Fay Ave., La Jolla, enclosing one dollar for annual membership. The gift booklet will be mailed to you upon request.

It is fitting that this Association should be inaugurated in this centennial year of the discovery of the Torrey Pines. And it is worthy of note that these Pines, discovered in 1850, the year in which California was admitted to the Union, may well be designated CALIFORNIA'S BIRTHDAY TREES.

An eastern expert, writing in the December, 1949, Flower Grower, reported the miniature dahlia, Hazel Harper, as: "Unquestionably best small American straight cactus since Homeacre Sweetist", and gave it the rare high rating of 86½%. We sensed a "scoop" and persuaded Mrs. Harper, a Floral Association member, to tell how easy it is to have - -

Fun with Dahlias

HAZEL SLOAN HARPER

One afternoon in late summer, five years ago, I invaded my neighbor's garden and gathered a few heads of miniature cactus dahlias which had dried on the plants. Today, from this handful of seed, has come a dahlia which has just received two Honor Roll Awards and two Certificates of Merit from the National Trial Gardens. For an amateur, this is a thrilling experience.

I knew nothing whatsoever about gathering dahlia seeds nor how to plant them. The fun of seeing what would come out of it, prompted me to take that handful of seed home, scatter it in a seed box and pat a little soil over it.

In a surprisingly short time, there appeared a number of sturdy little plants which I left in the seed box until spring and then set them out in my garden. About a half dozen of these developed into really attractive dahlias. Each one was different from the other. All were small; some were single; some lovely, full-petaled, but with weak necks. Their shades of color ranged

from soft salmon through pinks, to dusty rose.

Because my garden is small, I kept only a few of the seedlings. Among them was an exquisite little pink cactus miniature, less than 4 inches across. When I gathered a bouquet of those flowers, it was wonderful to realize that they were my own creation (even though accidental), and that no other dahlias in the world were exactly like them.

Each summer my little dahlia disclosed new merits. The plant was low, compact, and free from pests. It was exceptionally hardy and made very healthy roots. The color varied with the location. When grown in partial shade, the flowers had the same deep clear pink as those of the Rosa-de-Montana vine, with a light reverse. When raised in full sun, they showed a tint of lavender. When cut, the petals at the center had a fascinating habit of turning white, of then adding another round of white for each of the five days they would last in water. The attractive buds and leaves increased the exquisite beau-

ty of the flowers in arrangements. The heads always held themselves upright, an important feature in good dahlias. Cheerful color and miniature size recommended it for the bedside table.

Last spring I finally got up enough courage to enter my unnamed prodigy in a local dahlia show, where, to my delight, it won a gold cup! This encouraged me to place the dahlia in the 1949 Trial Gardens, to see how it would fare in other parts of the country.

A novice has much to learn about commercial procedures. I have Mr. Comstock, of the Comstock Dahlia Gardens, to thank for his friendly guidance. I found that each American Dahlia Society Trial Garden is paid five dollars to grow a dahlia for a season. The plant is then judged for general performance. If it rates 80%, it automatically becomes a named variety; if it scores 85% or more, it is awarded a Certificate of Merit for good, all-around excellence. I also learned that a dahlia, whether shipped in January or May, must be protected against freezing.

After I sent my stock away, there was a long summer of waiting. Then, before I was officially notified that my dahlia was certified in two Trial Gardens, letters and telegrams began to arrive. Offers of introduction were made in such a friendly, congratulatory way that they did not seem to be concerned with business. News that my entry was selected for both the Eastern and Mid-West Honor Rolls made an exciting climax. So the Hazel Harper dahlia had arrived!

Three well-known dahlia growers offered to handle my stock but I did not know the importance of selecting an agent early enough for him to advertise the Hazel Harper

SPECIAL:—

Citrus Trees — were \$3.50 now only \$2.95

Bare Root Roses65 each

Bare Root Fruit Trees75 & \$1.45 each

FREE DELIVERY — F. H. A. TERMS

KNIFFING BROS, NURSERY

5503 El Cajon Blvd.

T. 7881

in the December number of the "Flower Grower", where the dahlias with the highest ratings are named and described. For that reason, my dahlia will not be on the market until 1951. This will allow me to obtain a photograph of the flowers, which I had neglected to do, and will permit my Ohio growers, Rocky River Dahlia Gardens, to test and increase our stock. They do this by starting cuttings in the hot-house in January and then planting clumps in the fields in May.

A new dahlia root is rarely bought outright by the introducer, but is handled on a fifty-fifty basis with the originator, for one year. Large dahlias bring as much as twenty dollars for a "root", as they are called in the trade. A miniature seldom goes above five dollars, the first year.

Hazel Harper dahlia takes very little cultural care, and will stand the competition of trees and shrubs. The roots may be set out, about two feet apart, in March, or even earlier in San Diego. They need no staking. I nip out the tops when growth reaches 8 to 10 inches.

One need not buy many roots. When the first small shoots are about 3 inches high, cut all but one of them off close to the original

root. Plant these cuttings in flats or wherever you wish them to grow. They start easily and form good blooming plants the first year. Those who show dahlias often pick their finest flowers from these cuttings. At the end of the season, each stalk will have made a small clump of two or three roots.

Leave a few dahlia clumps in the ground over the winter, for very early bloom. With the regular plantings from March through May, and with the rooted cuttings for late flowers, you can extend the blooming season to six months.

In the middle of August, cut back some of your largest and strongest plants, fertilize them with a good commercial product and a handful of superphosphate, and enjoy a second crop of flowers.

By fall, many of your plants will begin to show open centers. That is the time for you, or the bees, to cross them for the next seed harvest.

The roots may be left in the ground for two years, but never longer as they pile up, and even wrap around one another. If the mother root is removed, there is less chance of disease. I dig my dahlias sometime between Thanksgiving and Christmas. My soil is adobe, so I can leave the dirt on the clumps

and place them under a tree until planting time. With this treatment, they never shrivel.

In Southern California there is a tendency to grow large showy dahlias, and to pay comparatively little attention to the smaller ones. The rest of the country recognizes the value of the minatures and gives them prominence in shows. There are several excellent growers of large types in San Diego county who produce top blooms and seed, but I know of no one here who handles the seeds of miniature cactus dahlias and few who grow the plants. The cactus miniature type has a more interesting form than the round-headed pompom frequently found at a florist shop.

The miniature is a delight in a small garden, especially if planted in masses of single color, or used for low hedges. Best of all, a miniature cactus dahlia is a boon to busy householders, as it will grow anywhere, without elaborate soil preparation or after-care, and will cut and come again and again for indoor arrangements.

From my own experience, I heartily recommend to my fellow-gardeners, the fun and anticipation to be derived from raising miniature cactus dahlias from seed.

For plants and seeds . . .

For garden tools and accessories . . .

For every gardening need . . .

it's **WHITNEY'S**
Broadway, 5th, 6th and E, Franklin 8262

Where San Diegans
have been saving
for 43 years!

No grass grows beneath the Hamilton feet, -- only gladiolus!

These enthusiastic growers arrived in Chula Vista in January, 1947. That summer, in the first Shows they had ever entered, they won sixty-five ribbons, including the Amateur Supremacy Award for the best gladiolus in the Long Beach Show. Success turned a hobby into business. 1948 brought top professional honors at the San Diego County Fair.

Those who have enjoyed Marie Hamilton's talks will be glad to have this written record for reference.

Gladiolus, Then and Now

MARIE CLARK HAMILTON

A gladiolus is among the fairest of the fair in the home garden today, but when Linnaeus saw it, some two hundred years ago, the sword-like leaves were more impressive than the flowers, so he christened it *Gladiolus*, meaning "little sword."

The greatest concentration of this important flower group, of more than two hundred species, is found in the Cape region of Africa. It is believed that the Crusaders brought back some hardy Mediterranean varieties that originated in Asia Minor and that escapees from these naturalized themselves in inland Europe, where, in the 17th Century, they were known as "Corn Lillies." In the intense search for food plants during the first half of the 18th Century, South African specimens of *gladiolus* were introduced into Europe.

Interest in the wild *gladiolus* as a garden flower was awakened during the 19th Century. At that time practically every expedition to the African coast brought back specimens for Botanical gardens. As

gladiolus imports increased, gardeners began crossing them with each other, and in some instances, they achieved remarkable results.

The field for the hybridist has been, and still is, very fertile. Years ago A. E. Kunderd, of Indiana, gave us the recurved, the lacinated, and the ruffled forms. About twenty years ago, E. F. Palmer, of Quebec, brought out the famous Picardy, which is still with us. Picardy was destined to be the forerunner of a new race of *gladiolus*, noted for their good form, color and growing habits. Although *gladiolus* are only a hobby with Mr. Palmer, he has introduced more than one hundred new varieties, many of which are among the world's best, in their respective color classes.

Our own California is not without hybridists of note. Close by, at Encinitas, Mrs. Briggs enjoys an enviable reputation for her originalities, among which are Easter Parade, clear white, and Alice Adams, a beautiful geranium pink. Further up the state, at Van Nuys, lives L. R. Langworthy, a retired school

teacher, who has given us some fine new *gladiolus*. Among his best are Butterscotch, a soft salmon buff, with a deep rose blotch, and Indian Summer, orange, overcast with grape, with a ruby throat. Dr. C. M. Evans, a practicing dentist of Ukiah, has made his *gladiolus* past-time pay off very well. One of his first and most beautiful introductions was April, a very delicate pink.

The hybridization of *gladiolus* is very simple. Brush the ripe pollen of one plant onto the receptive stigma of another and, in time, a seed-pod will result. In San Diego County, seeds that we have planted in October have rewarded us with flowers in the following August.

Except for thrip control, *gladiolus* require no special care or culture and certainly need no coddling. It is well for the beginner to remember that blooms from good, clean, healthy stock are the only ones that will bring the joy anticipated. Purchase bulbs from a reputable grower. Open your order when it arrives and, if they have not already been treated, apply D.D.T. to the bulbs at once, to protect them from any thrips in the area. Bulbs should be treated again, before planting. Use New Improved Cerasan for the wet-dip method or dust with Arasan.

In Southern California, you may plant *gladiolus* any time from January 15 until the first of August. To prolong the blooming season, plant at intervals of three weeks. *Gladiolus* like open sky and full sunshine. They will add a colorful note

ROSE COURT

Floral Co.

Cut Flowers that Last for every occasion

Flowering and Decorative Plants —

Cyclamen and Orchids for the home

Roses, Camellias and Bedding Plants for the garden

3698 Reynard Way

'Phone, Woodcrest 3169

among the low-growing plants of the garden.

For cut flowers it is best to plant gladiolus in rows, as you would vegetables. Space the rows 18 to 30 inches apart and open up the trenches to the depth that you intend to plant; 4 inches in heavy soil or 6 inches in light soil. Into this trench put one inch of steamed bonemeal, or at the rate of 8 pounds to 100 feet of row. Mix the earth and fertilizer in the bottom of the trench, then set the bulbs, basal scar down, firmly into the earth, spacing them about two to four times the diameter of the bulb. After planting, the trench should be filled in and tamped down firmly.

Thoroughly soak the planted area. Keep rows weeded. Water well about once a week. Gladiolus need plenty of water, but do not like to have their feet kept wet.

When the plants are about 4 inches high, start a dusting program to control your main problem—thrips. These minute insects, about 1/16 of an inch long, crawl in between the leaf and the stem, rasp the tender surfaces, and suck the juices from the plant. For effective control, dust with 3 to 5% D.D.T. once a week.

When cutting gladiolus blooms, always leave four or more leaves on the plant to supply nourishment to the bulb which will give you next season's flowers. Bulbs should be left in the ground six to eight weeks after blooming, to mature the new bulbs, and to make bulblets.

Gladiolus are outstanding in flower arrangements and are also beautiful when floated. Use clean containers for the blooms, which will last longer if an inch or so of the stem is taken off, each day. A slanting cut will absorb more water. The fine keeping qualities of gladiolus make them unexcelled for corsages.

Follow these few simple instructions, and you will be assured of

Mr. Hottes devotes his talents in three mediums of expression, - - speaking, painting, and writing - - to the stimulation of our horticultural interest.

Fremontias

Cover illustration and article by

ALFRED C. HOTTES

Fre-mon' ti-a,—Flannellbush
(Leatherwood) (Slippery-elm)
Related to the Bottle-tree.

It is seldom mentioned that the intrepid explorer of the West, J. C. Fremont, was fascinated by plants. He sent home great bundles of dried specimens which the botanists were happy to receive. Among the many plants introduced by General Fremont, was the small tree, or large shrub which bears his name, *Fremontia*. He found this in 1846 and, when he sent it to Dr. John Torrey for identification, he was surprised to discover that it belonged to an entirely new genus.

prize-winning blooms. If you grow flowers . . . plan to show flowers.

The following are some popular gladiolus, of both old and new varieties:

WHITE: Leading Lady, Anna Mae, Easter Parade, Silentium, Margaret Beaton, White Goddess.

PINK: Pandora, Ethel Cave Cole, April, Ballad, Alice Adams.

RED: Blaze, Black Opal, Kenwood, Mercury, Red Charm.

YELLOW: Bernece, Spotlight, Token, Yellow Herald, Sparks.

LAVENDER: Aderio, Elizabeth the Queen, Patrician, Huntress.

ROSE: Burma, Oregon Rose, Chamonny, Miss Wisconsin.

CARROT: Trocadero.

PURPLE: Parnassus, Purple Supreme.

SALMON: Aladdin, Picardy.

BLUE: Blue Admiral, Blue Beauty.

SCARLET: Beacon.

ORANGE: Indian Summer, Palermo.

BUFF: Bingo, Butterscotch.

SMOKY: Recado, Irak, Hi-Finance.

There are two species of *Fremontia*, both of which are found in California. The most commonly seen in cultivation is *Fremontia mexicana*, the San Diego Flannellbush. The plants grow 12 to 15 feet tall. The flowers are bronzy orange, opening from March to June, with occasional blooms during summer and fall. The five-parted, cup-shaped flowers are produced singly in the axils of the leaves. The showy parts are not petals, but sepals. The leaves, which are semi-deciduous, densely wooly beneath, and somewhat scaly above, have five lobes that suggest a small fig leaf.

Fremontia californica, the California Flannellbush, has small leaves with fewer lobes, and flowers that are not as showy as the Mexican variety.

There is a sort, *Fremontia californica*, var. *napensis*, from Napa County, which has pale yellow flowers and less rusty foliage than the others.

Uses and Culture. Strictly speaking, *Fremontias* do not submit to cultivation, because they will not tolerate any coddling and thrive without water or plant food. They like the boiling sun and die when given good garden culture, but can be exceedingly beautiful in out-of-the-way spots not reached by the garden hose.

PLANTS ●
FISH ● NOVELTIES
BIRDS ●

Millar Seed Co.

733 Broadway—M. 0219

S & H Stamps

Mrs. White, the San Diego County Regional Director of the S.C.I.S., and an authoritative writer on iris, tells us of new developments in her field in:

An Iris Letter

ALICE J. WHITE

This letter is partly in answer to S. H. Carse, who was intrigued by the mention of a San Diego Iris Society that did not exist, when he wrote "Musings of an Iris Fan," in the California Garden for Spring, 1949. Such an organization has now come into being, and Mr. Carse is a member of it.

The first meeting was held December 4, at the home of Mrs. F. W. Fitzpatrick, who was the moving spirit in getting things rolling. Results were: registration of ten charter members (dues, one dollar); election of Mrs. H. L. Jenkins as president; adoption of the name, San Diego Iris Club; appointment of Mrs. Fitzpatrick as program chairman; a group membership taken out in the Southern California Iris Society and one in the American Iris Society; establishing the second Sunday of each month for meetings.

By affiliating with the larger groups, the local club will receive the Bulletins of the A.I.S. and the "Iris Note" of the S.C.I.S., plus notices of the meetings and of the Iris Show, sponsored each Spring by the S.C.I.S.

The San Diego Iris Society is the

first to come in under the new regional directorship, and to Mrs. Fitzpatrick must go all the credit for initiative and organization. Her many years of interest in and work with iris, before and since coming to San Diego, about five years ago, will be of great value to the club and to its individual members.

Mr. Carse mentions that certain of his iris did not stand last winter's freeze. The probable reason is stated in his first paragraph; "... some varieties . . . never recommended for planting in the East because they are too tender." The ancestry of a number of iris originating in Southern California goes back to species indigenous to the wild climates of Southern Europe and Asia Minor. These types are tender, hence their progeny are too, unless an admixture of hardier blood dominates to make them rugged. Note their lush growth through fall and winter, while hardier varieties fairly hibernate.

As for Capitola, though hardy to cold, it, like so many of oncocyclus derivation, is likely to sulk more or less in Southern California. But it is tops for hybridization. Roy W. Fielding, past president of S.C.I.S.,

covers this field in "Unusual Iris Color", in the A.I.S. Bulletin for October, 1949. He also refers to Tom Craig, a Los Angeles artist, who is doing fine hybridizing, as "Southern California's current Iris Superman."

It seems that Mr. Craig is using pollen of Capitola and its pollen-parent, It-Mac, almost exclusively on such good pod-parents as Purissima, Snow Flurry and Mariposa Mia. The results, in quality and color pattern of the seedlings, are most satisfactory, and even startling.

It is hoped that the sponsorship of the so-called Irids, such as the Moraeas, *Hermodyctylus tuberosus*, etc., (close relatives of the iris,) which the S.C.I.S. allowed to lapse in 1944, will soon be renewed.

FOR FINE PLANTS

Mission Hills Nursery
1525 Ft. Stockton Dr., J. 2808



RAINFORD FLOWER SHOP

"San Diego's Oldest and Most Beautiful Flower Shop"

FLOWERS FOR ALL OCCASIONS

Easter decorations . . . Choice plants
Distinctive Arrangements

24 HOUR SERVICE

2140 Fourth Avenue

Franklin 7101

RAMONA Tree Service

**TRIMMING — SURGERY
REMOVAL**

*Satisfaction Guaranteed
Fully Insured*

Route 1, Box 300J — Ramona
Phone Bayview 4652

Pelargonium Parade

ALICE M. CLARK

As small boys are carried along by their seasons of kites, tops, and marbles, so gardeners pass from their breath-taking interest in flowering trees and daffodils, to an almost feverish enthusiasm over the colorful waves of bloom that flood the pelargoniums.

The name, Pelargonium, covers a large genus of the Geranium family, but, in everyday parlance, it designates the large-flowered hybrids, also known as Show or Lady (Martha) Washington geraniums.

In a recent talk, the well-known hybridist, Dr. Lammerts, urged gardeners to face the fact that our California winters are colder than we like to think. Unless sure of a winter-warm location, carry small replacements under glass, or grow pelargoniums in pots. Do not gamble with Jack Frost.

Growing pelargoniums in containers is most rewarding. When in flower, they can make the garden sing, wherever vocalization is needed. They are wonderful "pick-ups" literally, as well as figuratively. Potted pelargoniums are handy as gifts or exchanges or, best of all, as handsome displays in shows, where they out-do the cut blooms.

It is easy to keep potted plants healthy. You can see the pests and catch them with a quick dunking or spray. Start an early program of steady dusting with a lead arsenate preparation, to control worms, which are the worst pests of pelargoniums. You can usually take care of aphids and keep foliage bright with a hard spray of water. Water will spot the flowers.

Color is best in partial shade.

Shape the plants by nipping out the growing tips, until March, when the buds are forming. Prune

lightly in October. Never cut back hard or you may lose the plant. Root-prune potted plants in the fall and replace in the same sized containers.

Cuttings may be taken most any time, but are considered best in the autumn. Make them short (3 to 4 inches), and remove only the lower leaves. Dip stem in rooting powder and start in soil, or soil and sand.

Pelargoniums like a fairly heavy porous compost that has been enriched with rotted manure or bone-meal and superphosphate. Fertilize lightly when the buds form, and again when you have cut off the old flowers. Be sure there is space at the top of the pots for plenty of water. Sink or mulch the pots to prevent evaporation. Never let the plants in the ground dry out.

Great strides are being made in hybridizing. Pelargoniums become lovelier every year. Be choosy, and select only the large ruffled sorts, in your favorite delectable colors. Get acquainted with the local growers who carry fine plants, and make your selections early, so you can enjoy the full glory of their blooms. Some have longer seasons than others.

Gardener's Joy, Springtime, Mary

Bard and Grandma Fisher are good old stand-bys. The two pinks, Rhapsody and Ballerina, and the lavender, Stardust, are popular.

The rich red Queen of Hearts blooms a long time and is good in pots. Pink Lady Leslie is fine for cutting. All the names intrigue. Goldilocks and White Swan are two I want to own, though I have not seen them.

New Books

ADA McLOUTH

Iris For Every Garden

by Sydney B. Mitchell. *M. Barrows & Co., Inc., New York*, 1949, \$3.00..

Every iris fancier will wish to own Mr. Mitchell's book. His many years of growing iris in widely separated parts of the United States and Canada, his journeys to study them in other regions of the world, his close association with the literature of the subject and the breeders of strains, have enabled Sidney Mitchell to give the subject full treatment.

His enthusiasm for the genus communicates itself to the reader, who, loving the iris as every one must, is impelled to run to the nursery or write to the dealers after making lists and plans. To wait the proper season is the only hardship.

Comprehensive, delightful to read, serviceable as a reference work, it covers the history, distribu-

(Continued on next page)

PELARGONIUMS -- CARNATIONS -- FUCHSIAS --

Forty New 1950 Introductions

NEW DESCRIPTIVE CATALOG LISTING OVER 400 VARIETIES

HORNER'S NURSERY

1335 East 18th St., National City, California

Ph. G. 7-4796

Your Garden

EMILY CLAYTON

MARCH: Cold nights and hot days, not good for seed growth. . . Excellent time for transplanting or setting out all young plants. . . Prune fuchsias and geraniums before they make new growth. Slip good varieties. . . Plant gladiolus. . . Dig up and divide dahlias in the ground. Reset. . . Start begonia tubers in flats. . . Enrich beds for chrysanthemums and dahlias. . . Fertilize everything. Give the rose bed a 3 inch mulch of manure. . . From now on, keep spray gun loaded for aphids on all tender growth.

APRIL: Nights are warmer so seeds will come along rapidly. Plant first corn. . . Put in seeds of annuals to hid the yellow bulb leaves, which should never be cut. Work in some bonemeal. . . Feed special food to acid-loving plants. . . Prune hedges. Prune flowering trees and shrubs if you did not cut the blooms heavily. . . Divide violets and campanulas. *C. po-schar-sky-a-na* will make a sheet of blue as a ground cover on a shady bank or bed, but must be confined. . . Plant tropical fruits, tender shrubs and vines. . . More glads. . . Set out all bedders except zinnias and asters. Try the blue Wishbone Flower, *Torenia four-nier'i*, in a lightly shaded bed, with a feathery background of meadowrues, *Thalictrum dip-ter-o-car-pum* and columbines, with hanging baskets of *Browallia grandiflora* and *achimines* above. . . Make cuttings of chrysanthemums, fibrous begonias, fuchsias and dahlias. . . Spray for pests and mildew. Wear glasses when dusting, for in a sudden wind, the gardener, rather than the plant, gets the insecticides. . . Snails and slugs speed up their undercover work this month. Use anything that will stop these marching hordes of gastropods. . . Do

over the lawn now. Fertilizers that combine nitrogen and humus will give the new grass a boost and green up the old sod. . . Water everything thoroughly.

MAY: This mild foggy month protects newly-set-out plants from burning. . . Last call for the new chrysanthemums you liked last fall. Raise some in pots to set around as a surprise in the autumn, sometimes pleasant, sometimes magenta. . . Replant the shade bed with some of the many-colored impatiens, which grows like weeds among the ferns. Tuck in some Japanese anemones for an accent later. Replace the border of Fairy Primroses with Corallbells or dwarf bedding begonias. . . Dwarf nierembergias and lobelias may succeed the pansies and violas in the sunny borders. Penstemons and salvias extend the color parade. Slip some gladiolus in among them. . . Consider the oleander, abutilon, bougainvillea, strelitzia, hibiscus and Coral Tree for late bloom. . . Sow seed of carrots, string beans, squash, melons and cucumbers. Set out plants of okra, peppers, eggplants, and tomatoes. . . Sow zinnias, annual phlox, nicotiana, African venidium, and tithonia, for fall color. The seeds of all winter-blooming plants should be started in flats this month. . . Pot tuberous begonias. . . Note the names of favorite day-lilies and iris now. . . Continue the regular use of

NEW BOOKS

(Continued from page 15)

sulphur or copper sprays for mildew, and all-purpose poisons for tation, uses of the plant. Lists are given of favored varieties, also a selected list of dealers.

The author gives fully as much space to the beardless and other groups as to the bearded.

Color plates of twenty-five varieties are included. Line drawings throughout the text, are by Tom Craig of Los Angeles, himself a hybridizer. They are beautiful and satisfying, show botanical details, planting and breeding methods.

The Trick of Growing House Plants in Every Window

by Sophia Naumburg. *Floral Art, West Englewood, N.J.*, 1949, \$2.00

An attractive little manual in plastic cover with spiral binding gives instructions in the simplest terms covering the culture of thirty-four different plants suitable for indoor gardening. A novel feature is the use of different colored pages for South, North, East or West windows. It includes clear illustrations of each plant described, charts, brief bibliography, list of dealers, and index.

other pests. A strong spray of water helps to reduce white fly, thrip and red spider. . . Water heavily. The water bill will begin to rise, but so also will the flowers.

GIFT CERTIFICATES

TUBEROUS BEGONIAS, FUCHSIAS AND GARDENIAS

• A FULL LINE OF ESTABLISHED ROSES •

EVERYTHING FOR THE GARDEN

WALTER ANDERSEN'S NURSERIES

3869 ROSECRANS

Phone W-6231



SUBTROPICAL
& Decorative Plants

For Spring Flowers:

GLOXINIAS
TUBEROUS BEGONIAS
FUCHSIAS, ALL TYPES
*Including the Best
1950 Introductions*
SUBTROPICAL PLANTS
For Interior Decor

*WE WILL HELP YOU
SELECT PLANTS TO
COMPLEMENT YOUR HOME*

W. A. Buerger
4455 Montalvo
San Diego 7, California
Bayview 4070

Ask for our
beautiful, 1950
Colored, Fuchsia
Catalog.

POSTMASTER:

Return postage guaranteed.
San Diego Floral Association
Balboa Park, San Diego 1, Cal

FLORABUNDA AND POLYANTHUS ROSES

are useful for Hedges, and supply worlds of miniature flowers for
corsages and vases

F. W. JAMES & SON

offer the varieties listed below to add appeal to your garden:

Baby Chateau (p)

Cameo (p)

Cecil Brunner (p)

Chatillion Rose (p)

Donald Prior (f)

Eutin (p)

Fashion (f)

Floradora (f)

Ming Toy (p)

Pinocchio (p)

Poulsen's Yellow (p)

Red Pinocchio (p)

For complete descriptions and prices — write, 'phone or call for our 1950 ROSE LIST

NATIONAL CITY
G. 7-4151
510 National Avenue

F. W. JAMES & SON NURSERY

"SINCE 1913"

CORONADO
H. 3-3550
145 Orange Avenue

We specialize in:

AFRICAN VIOLETS

Our stock includes:

- ★ LADY GENEVA, beautiful new blue flower, with white border . . .
- ★ Many other named varieties . . .
- ★ Some very interesting seedlings.

Visitors Always Most Welcome At

The

J. O. DAVIS NURSERY

4436 Cleveland Ave. San Diego 3, California J. 0117

WASHINGTON STREET NURSERY

Flowering Trees and Shrubs

ROSES

SUMMER BULBS AND BEDDERS

510 West Washington Street

Phone: Jackson 8228

PASQUALE ANTONICELLI

ROSECROFT

A SYNONYM OF GARDEN BEAUTY

For Fifty Years

Visitors are welcome to our bower of

Tuberous Begonias and Fuchsias

Go towards Pt. Loma on Rosecrans Blvd., — up Talbot or
Canon to Catalina — South to Rosecroft Lane — Left at

510 Silvergate

Bayview 6724

Point CHOICE SPRING GARDEN STOCK *Loma* and FINE ROSES *Nurseries*

Two Locations — Plenty of Parking

FARMER'S MARKET

2790 MIDWAY DRIVE

Bayview 8450

1150 GREENWOOD

Woodcrest 3588

Ask for our free monthly Gardening Magazine